BÉZIAN

ARCHIPELAGOS

.V.S.B.
EDITIONS

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Thanks to the original scanner & Font Designers

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This scanlation is dedicated to all those
who desperately wait for a phone call... ☺

Have a nice reading!

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What's been absorbing you for an hour...?

"LE CÔTE DE GUERMANTES"
Marcel PROUST...

Ah... is it good?

It's readable...

OK! I'm calling her...

She told us we had to wait...

You need to know when to speed things up, my friend, especially with women, otherwise you don't get anything in this world...!

There's no answer...

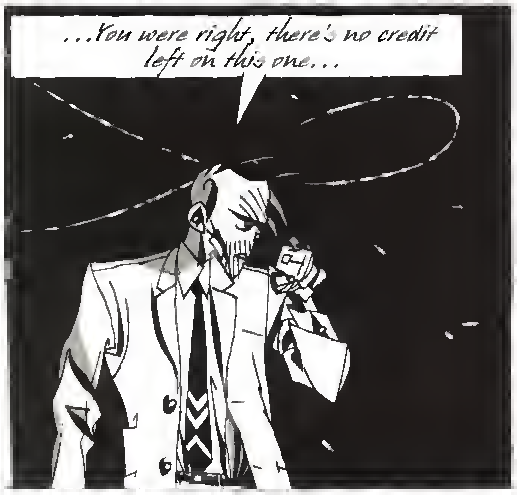
I told you so...

Damnit, she could at least have an answering machine! Where did she go now?!

Nothing says she's out... She's not answering. That's all.

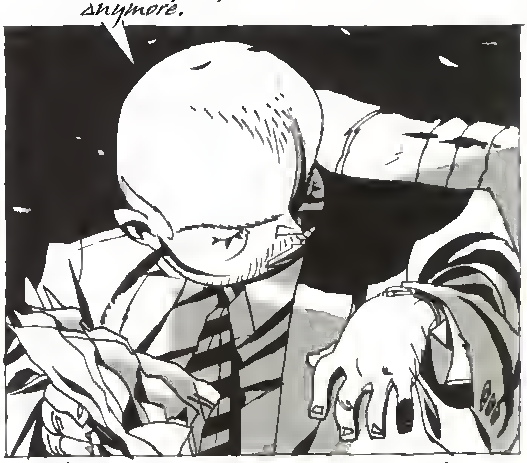
And what would this stupid behavior drive her to? Can you tell me ?!
To the exact thing she wants us to do...
Which is?!
Waiting...

You're starting to write again...? Tis this Proust of yours who puts you in the mood, no doubt...
What else can I do ?
Get us out of it, you irresponsible wretch ! Look at me, I found another phone card...!
...Used up, most likely...! This won't get you anywhere...
Maybe it's not...
...And even so, I can resell 'em... There are collectors...
Bah !
...That's utterly outdated, my dear friend ! There's been a keen interest at first, but nobody will take your cards anymore, it's over now...



Why don't you try and calm down? She promised to call this phone booth some night this week, at 3. Fine. She gave you her number in case of emergency and you're misusing it! Why don't you trust her?

...You and your literature...!

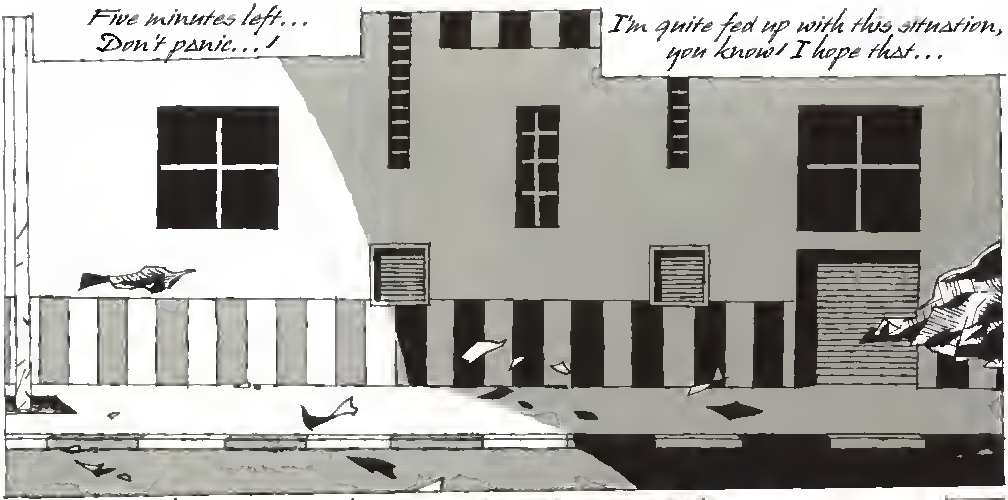

It's 3:30 anyway, she won't call tonight anymore.

Lend me your pen for a minute, will you...?

...Thanks... So. Two credits left on this one, four on that one...

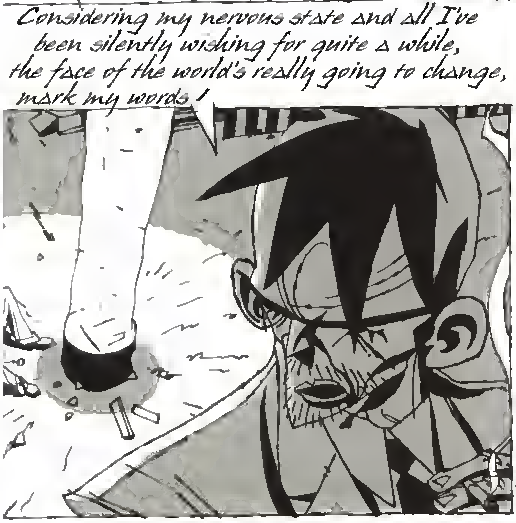
I mark them, otherwise I get muddled and put them with the empty ones!

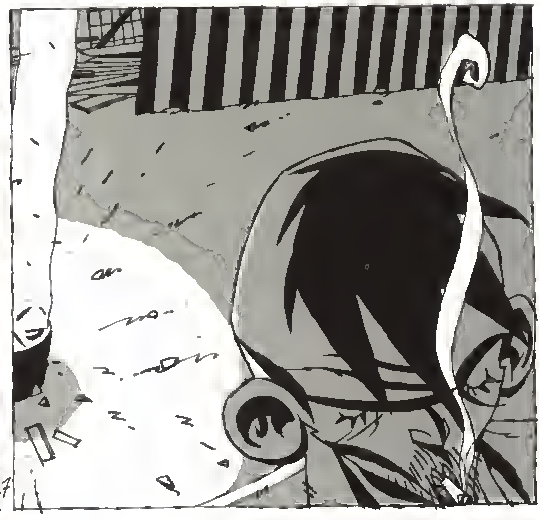
I hate waste!

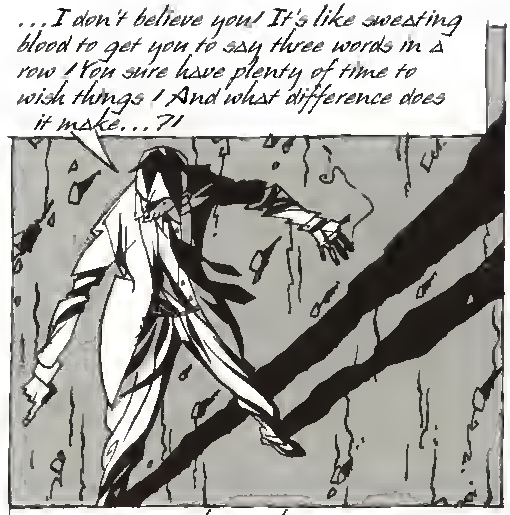

Five minutes left... Don't panic...!
I'm quite fed up with this situation, you know! I hope that...

HUSH! A wish stands better chance of becoming true if it remains secret!

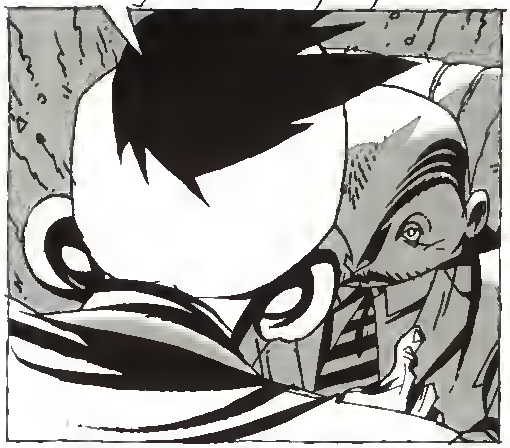
You believe so...?


Considering my nervous state and all I've been silently wishing for quite a while, the face of the world's really going to change, mark my words!




...I don't believe you! It's like sweating blood to get you to say three words in a row! You sure have plenty of time to wish things! And what difference does it make...?!

...Eh?! What's changed since I've been here listening to you saying nothing? Aren't we just still in the same jam...?!


...Or maybe that's what you want, that things stand the way they are...

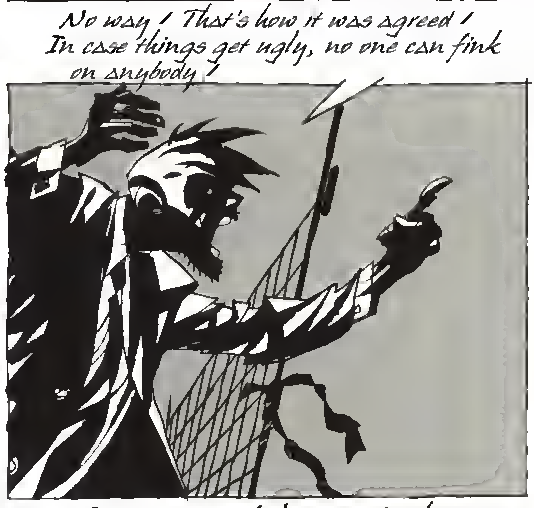
...In which case I must confess you're very good.

3:18. She won't call anymore.

Say... Maybe we could reveal our names now... Mine is...

I don't want to know ! Be quiet, you fool !

Bah ! Anonymity is useless from now on. Obviously, everything's over...


No way ! That's how it was agreed ! In case things get ugly, no one can fink on anybody !

...And who says everything's over for a start ?

...It's a matter of elegance, by the way. I insist on that point...

But... My word! You're stuck on her!

It's nearly three...

Fuck !

I've had enough of you putting on airs, you know !

Maybe, but it doesn't prevent you from being polite...

Yes it does ! And quicken your pace, if you don't mind ! Or else we'll get there late and it'll be your fault !

Why are you mad at me, exactly ?

Exactly, I have no idea.

What do you mean?

Give me a moment to find my words...

Oh, I'm sure we'll have arrived there by then!

I'm done with your insinuations!

...With your silence too, but your insinuations are what's worst!

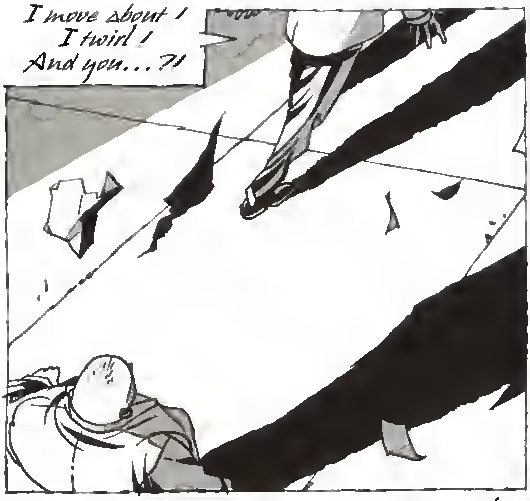
Maybe I was a little hard on you, but now...

You know what you can do with your prerogative of age!

...I know what you're getting at! Your entire behavior aims to make me feel your superiority...!

...I'm practical, you're intellectual! I'm restless, you're taciturn...!

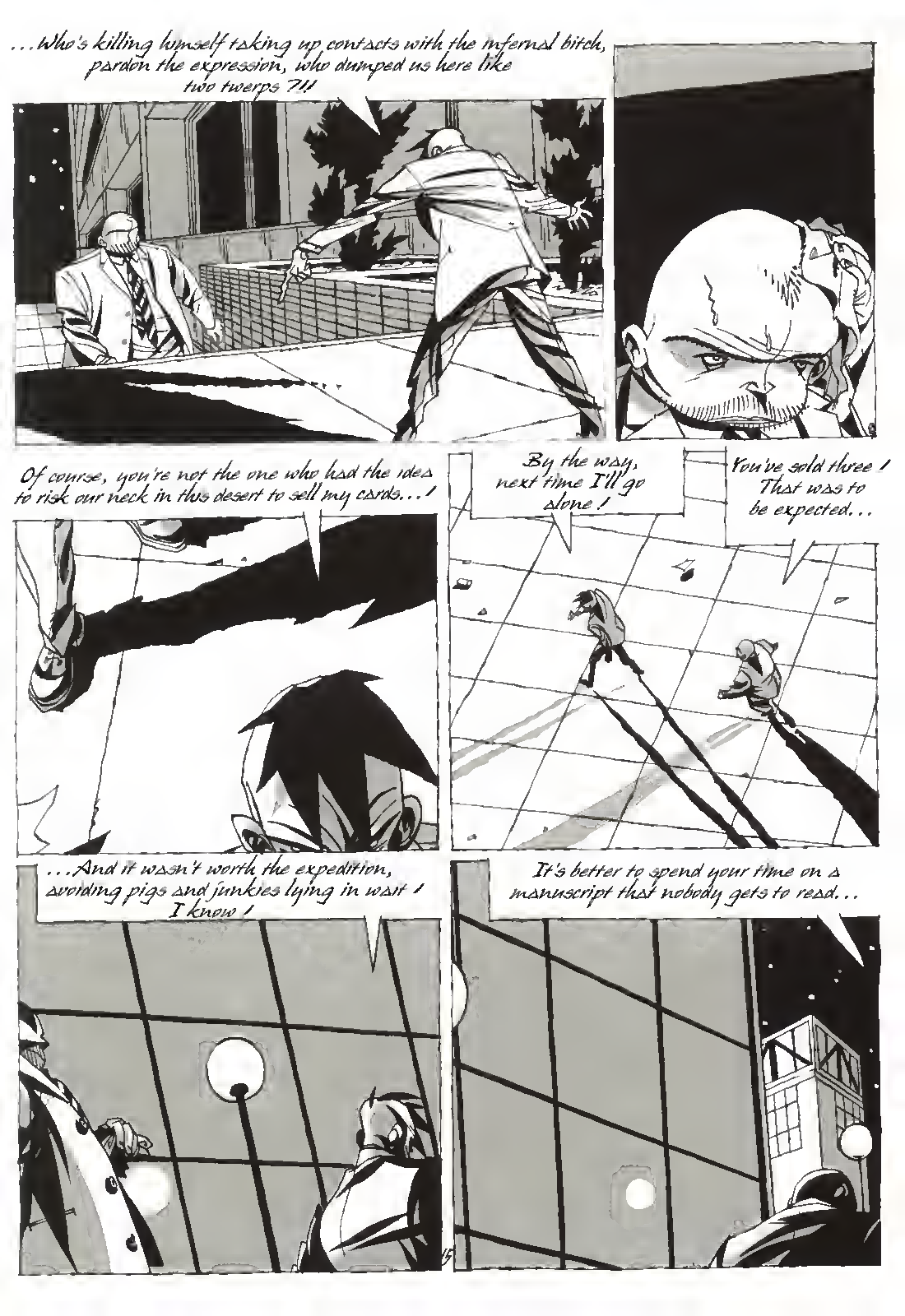
...And the rest is in the same vein! Regarding our business, why are we stuck in the sands, eh...?!

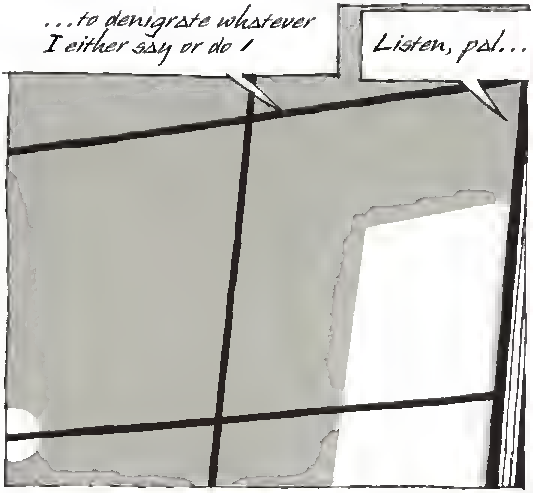

I move about ! I twirl ! And you...?!

...You write page after page about the thoughts of a character convinced that time doesn't exist ! Honestly...!

No need to make such a long face, I've read your manuscript! While you were sleeping...!

...And who's exhausting himself trying to find a way to bail us out...?


...Who's killing himself taking up contacts with the infernal bitch, pardon the expression, who dumped us here like two twerps ?!!
Of course, you're not the one who had the idea to risk our neck in this desert to sell my cards...!
By the way, next time I'll go alone!
You've sold three! That was to be expected...
...And it wasn't worth the expedition, avoiding pigs and junkies lying in wait! I know!
It's better to spend your time on a manuscript that nobody gets to read...


...to denigrate whatever I either say or do !
Listen, pal...

DO NOT TOUCH ME !!

Here, I'll show you...!

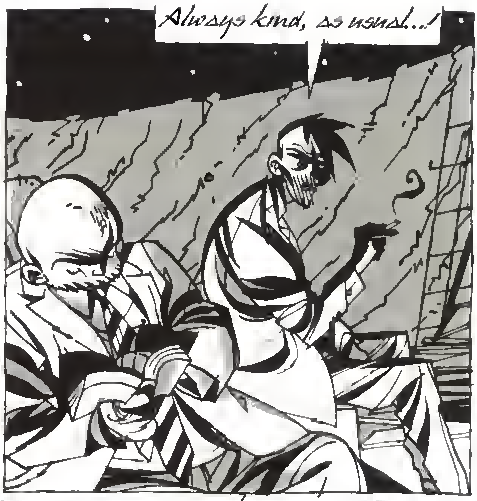
Look at this, two minutes...! And here, three minutes...!

...And on that one, almost six ! I've got tons of time, my dear ! How much do you want ?!

With these three cards alone, you've got almost a quarter of an hour ! Come on ! Take 'em !!

Will you keep pretending that time doesn't exist ? You're pathetic, my old buddy...!!
...Simply pathetic...!!
I think you're not much older than me, in the end...

Is it so important ?


Always kind, as usual...!

...You're the one worrying me, with your nerves...!

I can't concentrate. My head's in the clouds.

I'm very pleased, I can hear you say what you're thinking, for once !

If that's your sole purpose in life...!

Always kind, as usual!

Do you realize how incredible our story is?
What do you mean?

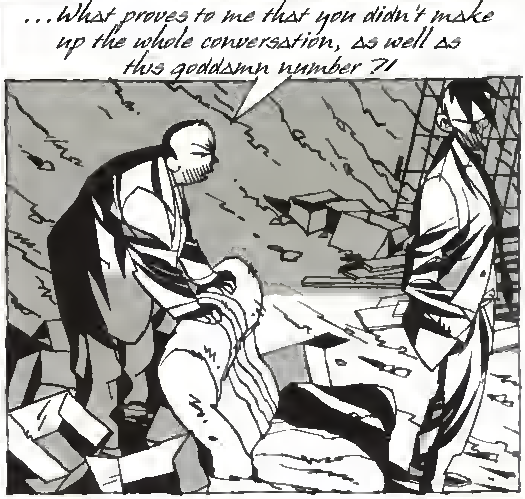
Tell anybody what's happening to us, no one would believe you!

Here we are, like two outcasts, without papers, with no other clothes but the ones we're wearing and looking after, no matter what...

...Waiting for the hypothetical call of an indelicate ex-accomplice whose existence we can't even prove !

You're crazy ! I've got her number, and it's her in person who...
That's what you say !

...You were the last to supposedly have her on the phone after our "job" !


...What proves to me that you didn't make up the whole conversation, as well as this goddamn number ?!

...What tells me that you didn't invent it all, so that I may stay with you and wait...

...Because you can't stand being alone, for instance...!!

You're quite good for a taciturn man...

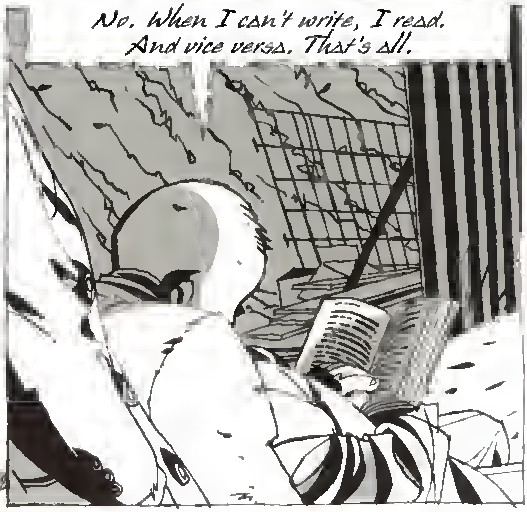
I even bet that if I were to steal one of your cards and dial that damn number, I'd get a message of that kind: "The number you have reached is not in service..." etc, etc!

And she's not answering, of course...

Not finished yet ?

You never finish Proust. Once you've read it, you start it all over again.

Still sulking ?


No. When I can't write, I read. And vice versa. That's all.

...Anyway, I sincerely regret having suspected you.
When I think of it...! It took us so long to figure it out...!
Are you mad at her...?

...It's been two weeks!
Do you really think she could have played such a dirty trick on us?
It seems obvious to me now...
Oh come on, that's impossible! Try again! You must have a credit or two left...!
What's the point?
KEEP LOOKING!
Coming round to it, eh...? I'm telling you, I've got no credits anymore!
...Ah! Wait! Two credits on this one! "Cyber-Lunch" restaurants!
Give it to me!

.....Hello...?

...Hello! Is it you, darling...?

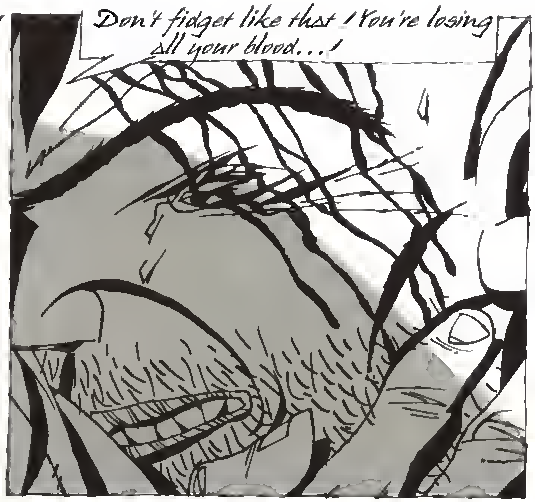
Yes, we're still here...!
Beg your pardon...?

...Listen, I can't stay on the phone much...
...Ah, excuse me...! You're not respecting our agreement, if I may say!
...No...! No, not at all! It's about...
...You took us for idiots and there's no way we're...

...We demand, er, it's going to cut off, please call us back !!
...Yes, same phone booth...! Right away !
I didn't mince my words, eh ?!
...She'll call back...

Give me my card back, you liar !
Actor. There's a difference !

...The bastard...! The filthy bastard...!

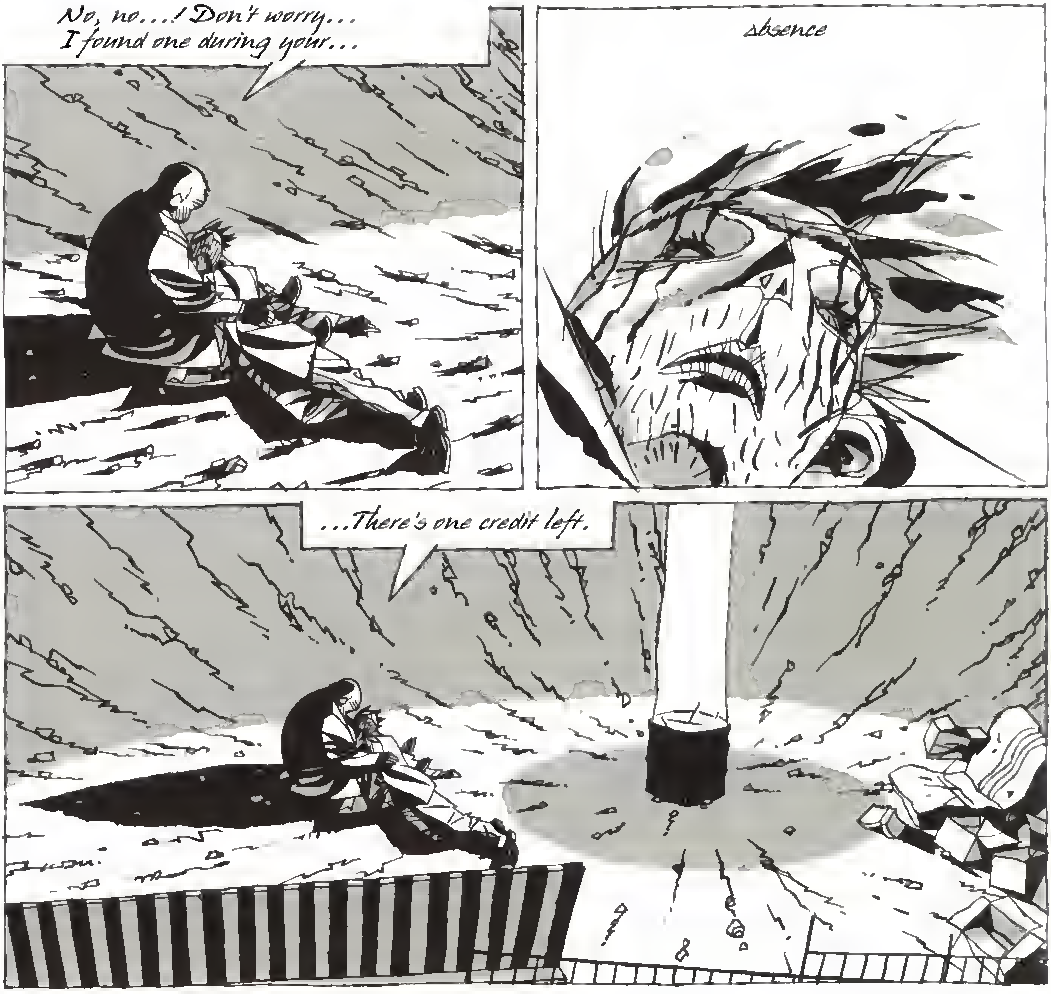

Don't fidget like that! You're losing all your blood...!

Where... Where are you...?! My head hurts...!

Don't move... Don't speak... I... I'm going for help...!

In this neighborhood...? You... You must be kidding...! You wanna call... 911? Ha, ha...! My head...!

...He stole them all... Right? That filthy bastard...!



"Some so-called 'never-ending stories' only give the impression of being dramatically short because they come to an abrupt end..." he thought.

Then, he lulled him softly.

BEZAN 31 12 1946
ISB 21 10 2008

From the same author:

L'ÉTRANGE NUIT DE MONSIEUR KORB
(*Magic Strip,* 1982)
THE PECULIAR NIGHT OF Mr. KRO

GINETTE, MARTINE, JOSIANE
(*Futuropolis,* 1982)

FIN DE SIÈCLE
(*Magic Strip,* 1986)
END OF CENTURY

TOTENTANZ - LA DANSE DES MORTS
(*Magic Strip,* 1986)
TOTENTANZ - THE DANCE OF THE DEAD

ADAM SARLECH
(*Les Humanoïdes Associés,* 1989)

LA CHAMBRE NUPTIALE
(*Les Humanoïdes Associés,* 1991)
THE WEDDING ROOM

TESTAMENT SOUS LA NEIGE
(*Les Humanoïdes Associés,* 1993)
TESTAMENT UNDER THE SNOW

LA DANSE DES MORT No1
(*Points Image,* 1994)
THE DANCE OF THE DEAD No1

ARCHIPELS
(*P.M.J. Éditions,* 1997)
ARCHIPELAGOS

Coming soon:
CHIEN ROUGE - CHIEN NOIR
(*P.M.J. Éditions,* 1999)
RED DOG - BLACK DOG

"I'd rather place this book between Beckett and 'Cold Buffet' [French movie directed by Bertrand Blier— translator's note]" Bézian said to me on the phone. I replied that he managed to pull it off, at least alphabetically speaking since he actually was between Beckett and Blier. "Very funny" he replied bitterly, already regretting having partly opened his thoughts to me; then, after a few polite greetings, we hung up.

Yes, Bézian is a bitter guy, sarcastic and somber... as showed in his book "Achipelagos".

Bézian doesn't like light. His soul, his clothes, his books and his characters sink into a nocturnal hope of an endless night. If he had a castle, it would be black. If he had a dog, it would be dead.

And then, suddenly, just to prove us wrong, there he is waxing lyrical, there he is touching, there he is deeply human.

Both sides gathered together tell us about life, life according to Bézian.

Lewis Trondheim.

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